Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 072548
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S E C R E T STATE 072548

NODIS
FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 5474 ACTION SECSTATE DATED APR 01:

QTE: S E C R E T ROME 5474

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, PFOR, IT
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 67973

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFED PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI ON FORTHCOMING PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT. IN ADDITION TO COVERING POINTS IN PARA 2 REFTEL, THE AMBASSADOR LEFT NON-PAPER WITH TEXT GIVEN PARA 3 REFTEL.

2. ON APRIL 1 THE PRIME MININSTER CALLED IN THE AMBASSADOR TO PROVIDE RESPONSE OF GOI. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION AS FOLLOWS:
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BEGIN TEXT PROPOSED INITIAL REPLY TO THE MESSAGE OF THE UNITED STATES ON NUCLEAR POLICY

(1) WE APPRECIATE THE DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES TO INCLUDE ITALY AMONG THE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH "RESTRICTED CONSULTATIONS" WILL BE CONDUCTED, EVEN MORE SO BECAUSE

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2 YEARS AGO WE FORMED THE BILATERAL "WORKING GROUP" FOR COOPERATION IN THE ENERGY AREA.

(2) WE FULLY SHARE THE OBJECTIVE OF REINFORCING NON-PROLIFERATION MEASURES. IT SEEMS NECESSARY, HOWEVER, THAT THE ACTION WHICH THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO INITIATE:

- BE ACCOMPANIED BY MEASURES DESIGNED TO ASSURE ITALY A GREATER ENERGY AUTONOMY, WITH PARTICULAR RESPECT TO A SUPPLY OF NATURAL URANIUM AND TO SATISFY ALL REQUIREMENTS OF REALIZING OUR ELECTRO-NUCLEAR PROGRAM INCLUDING THE FUEL CYCLE;

- INCLUDE GUARANTEES AGAINST THE REINFORCEMENT OF MONOPOLISTIC POSITIONS AND DISTORTIONS OF COMPETITION ON WORLD MARKETS FOR THE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AND OTHER PEACEFUL INSTALLA-TIONS;

- LEAD TO AN UNDERSTANDING ACCEPTED BY ALL THE COUNTRIES IN POSSESSION OF "SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY". OTHERWISE, A RESTRICTIVE POLICY RISKS HAVING COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE EFFECTS, IN THAT THE NEGOTIATING POSITION OF THE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NATURAL URANIUM RESOURCES WOULD BE REINFORCED (FOR EXAMPLE, THE WEST GERMAN-BRAZIL AGREEMENT).

3. WE WOULD LIKE MORE PRECISE INFORMATION CONCERNING

THE "IMPLICATIONS" (FOR OTHER NATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES FORESEES ARAISING ABROAD FROM THE AMERICAN DOMESTIC MEASURES. IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP IN MIND:

A THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY RESTRICTIVE POLICY ARE MORE SERIOUS FOR THE COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ITALY, WHICH DO NOT HAVE HYDROCARBON OR URANIUM RESOURCES;

- THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID FURTHER STIMULA-TION OF THE "DEMONSTRATIONS" AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS;

- THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES ADHERING TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND THOSE COUNTRIES NOT ADHERING;

- THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KNOW MORE PRECISELY US THINKING IN THE AREA OF "NON-SENSITIVE" FUEL CYCLES, ACCESS TO NUCLEAR FUELS AND STOCKPILING OF RADIO-

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ACTIVE FUELS.

4. WHILE AWAITING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE AREA
OF THERMONUCLEAR FUSION, DEVELOPMENT OF A FAST BREEDER
REACTOR APPEARS STILL TO BE AN ESSENTIAL INTERMEDIATE
PHASE FO THE COUNTRIES WITHOUT URANIUM. ITALY, FRANCE
AND WEST GERMANY ARE IN ANY CASE ENGAGED IN THE REALIZA-
TION OF THE "SUPERPHOENIX", WHICH IS NOT CAPABLE OF
BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A NON-PLUTONIUM (FUEL) DESIGN.
IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO HAVE A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION
FROM THE UNITED STATES OF WHAT POLICY WILL BE FOLLOWED
TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTROLLED THERMONUCLEAR
FUSION. ROME, MARCH 31, 1977 (END TEXT).

3. IN PROVIDING THE AMBASSADOR WITH GOI'S PAPER,
PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT GOI HAD BEEN
CONSULTED IN ADVANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND
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HOPED THAT A WIDELY-BASED AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED.
PRIME MINISTER RECOGNIZED DANGER THAT PLUTONIUM FUEL
FOR BREEDER REACTORS COULD BE USED FOR NON-PEACEFUL
PURPOSES, BUT EMPHASIZED GREAT ADVANTAGE OF THIS
TECHNOLOGY PARTICULARLY AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO TIME
WHEN PETROLEUM SUPPLY WILL BE INADEQUATE. ACCORDINGLY,
HE EMPHASIZED, WE MUST CAREFULLY STUDY IMPLICATIONS.
HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE NEED TO EXPAND DEVELOPMENT OF
FUSION TECHNOLOGY. FINALLY, PRIME MINISTER REFERRED
TO NECESSITY FOR MAINTAINING ACCESS TO ENRICHED URANIUM.
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